

**Transportation Research Board
Committee on Conduct of Research, ABG10**

**Summary – Midyear Meeting
Joint Meeting with the TRB Technology Transfer Committee**

**June 16-17, 2009
Keck Center, Washington, D.C.**

Tuesday, June 16, 2009

11:00 a.m. Plenary Session with TRB Technology Transfer Committee ABG30

Attendees :

Participants

Roya Amjadi, FHWA

*Stephen Arhin, Howard University

Jerry Baldwin, consultant

*Jason Bittner, Wisconsin

Transportation Center

Valerie Briggs, RITA

Nick Brooks, TRB intern

*William Carr, District of
Columbia DOT

*Patrick Casey, CTC &
Associates, LLC

*Lauren Chew, FHWA intern

*Nancy Chinlund, California DOT

Joe Conway, FHWA

*Participants in Conduct of Research Meeting

Kathy DesRoches, Manchester
Community College

*Debra Elston, FHWA

Kimberly Fisher, TRB

*Barbara Harder, B. T. Harder, Inc.

*Chris Hedges, TRB

*Marci Kenney, consultant

*Peter Kissinger, AAA Foundation
for Traffic Safety

*David Kuehn, FHWA

*Kelly Leone, RITA

*Laurie McGinnis, University of
Minnesota

John Munro, FHWA

*Samir Nazir, FHWA intern

*Mark Norman, TRB

*Ann Pahnke, Wisconsin DOT

*Amanda Pietz, Oregon DOT

Lisa Pogue

*Linda Preisen, University of
Minnesota

*Phil Roke, FHWA

Mark Sandifer, FHWA

*Peggy Tadej, District of
Columbia

DOT

Stuart Thompson, New
Hampshire DOT

Speakers (in addition to participant speakers)

William McComas, Shaprio, Sher, Guinot & Sandler

Matthew Barrett, LA County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Kendra Levine, Institute of Transportation Studies Library, University of California, Berkeley

Maggie Sacco, CTC & Associates, LLC

Amanda Wilson, BTS, National Transportation Library

On teleconference

Gary Frederick, New York State DOT

Leni Oman, Washington DOT

Presented Agenda

(Attachment #1)

Welcome and Introductions

Lisa Pogue, chair of the Technology Transfer Committee welcomed the approximately 30 attendees (members, friends and guests of both committees) and led a round robin of self-introductions including a description of what's "hot" in each person's organization.

Jason Bittner, co-chair of the Conduct of Research Committee thanked all for attending, previewed the agenda for the two-day meeting and introduced the next two presenters.

TRB Update

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

Mark Norman, TRB Director of Technical Activities and staff representative to the two committees, reported on several items of interest including:

- Activities are at an all time high with SHRP2 finishing many projects, the Airport Cooperative Research Program at its maximum number of projects and other programs generally operating at peak levels.
- Authorization activities are in full gear with both the Administration and the House proposing various approaches. On June 18 House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Chairman James Oberstar (D-MN) released a “Blueprint for Investment and Reform” outlining a proposal for a six-year, \$500 billion federal surface transportation authorization to succeed the \$286.4 billion SAFETEA-LU, which expires the end of September. See details on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Web site at <http://transportation.house.gov/>.
- The National Academies budget increased by 10% over last year.
- Recognizing the difficult economic situation of most states the TRB Executive Committee has recommended that there be no increase in TRB fees to states for the next three years.
- Approximately 10,000 attended the 2009 annual meeting, down only 500 from the previous record year, although attendance from state DOT personnel dropped 35%. The number of e-sessions increased from 24 to 60 (10% of the total number of sessions). TRB is encouraging committees to hold Web-accessible meetings.
- For the 2010 meeting, scheduled for January 10-14, an additional \$100,000 will be spent to push meeting sessions out to state DOTs, including the facilitation of teleconference capabilities for full committee meetings. A number of additional strategies are being explored. Another challenge is that the Washington Hilton Hotel will be undergoing a major renovation at the time of the meeting, necessitating shifting some meeting rooms to other venues, days and times.
- Communications is a top priority for all TRB committees. Each committee has been asked to review its communications portfolio and appoint a communications coordinator.
- The number of new and young volunteer members is up, with total TRB membership now comprised of 50% women and 40% non-white.
- August 1 is the deadline for paper submissions for the 2010 meeting.

TRB Research & Education Section Report

Bill Carr, Co-Chair of the TRB Research & Education Section ABG00 greeted the participants on behalf of the TRB section. Mark Norman covered the necessary TRB information.

LUNCH BREAK

1:00 p.m. Continuation of Plenary Session with TRB Technology Transfer Committee

Intellectual Property Rights – Panel Presentations and Discussion, facilitated by Co-Chair Barbara Harder

Intellectual Property Basics – Protecting and Commercializing Intellectual Property (Attachment #2 – Slides)

William A. McComas – Attorney, Partner at Shapiro, Sher, Guinot, and Sandler, P.A., member of TRB Committee on Emerging Technology Law, AL040

Bill introduced his presentation by observing the changes to intellectual property issues brought about by the Internet: transition from a tangible to an intangible world with digital content, on-demand printing, e-books and easy posting of content. He outlined the four types of intellectual property (patents, copyrights, trademarks and trade secrets) and discussed key issues for each: subject matter, requirements, rights, term and procedure to obtain. He also discussed ownership issues related to intellectual property (employer vs. employee and independent contractor) and commercialization of intellectual property through assignment or licensing.

Q&A included discussion of the complex issue of who owns traffic data and how contracts and licenses can affect ownership. Regarding copyright of photos, there are privacy rights and publicity rights, the photographer’s rights and rights related to the object of the photo. Licenses to commercialize intellectual property can be term limited or perpetual, exclusive or non-exclusive, modifiable or non-modifiable, subject or not to sublicensing, etc.

Intellectual Property Issues, State DOT Perspective (Attachment #3&4 – Slides)

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

Nancy Chinlund, Chief, Office of Planning, Caltrans Division of Research and Innovation, presented for scheduled speaker Lawrence "Larry" H. Orcutt, Chief, Division of Research and Innovation and co-chair of the Technology Transfer Committee, who was not able to attend the meeting.

Nancy outlined the difficulty public agencies have in effecting innovation (no incentive, resistance to change). Caltrans is engaged in addressing key intellectual property issues (ownership, value, compensation, benefits, role of government) in conjunction with a number of patents it developed. She described the Balsi Beam mobile work zone barrier, patented by Caltrans, and the difficulty of licensing the technology so it can be widely used. She also described issues related to Sensys wireless pavement sensors, a more reliable and less expensive technology than widely used inductive loops. Sensys development was funded by Caltrans but the University of California owns the intellectual property (not currently patented).

Q&A included discussion of issues such as public agency recovery of its investment in new technology perhaps through sharing in royalties that could be invested back into future research. What about making new technologies developed with public funds available to all (open source model)?

Developing Intellectual Property: Initial Lessons and Observations

Debra Elston, Director, FHWA Office of Corporate Research, Technology and Innovation Management

Debra noted that IP issues are involved in implementation of results from the federally funded SHRP2, which FHWA has been charged with overseeing, and in oversight of the University Transportation Center program by RITA. Debra began by observing that the decision of whether or not to seek a patent is often a dilemma for government agencies as well as universities. Patenting may not always be the best approach to commercialization: What is the end purpose, the business case, costs, partners, alternatives? These questions should be addressed before trying to apply the research. It's important to consider the open source alternative. An additional constraint on FHWA is a regulation - 23 CFR 635.411- that prohibits the use of federal-aid funds for a patented or proprietary product or process used on a federal-aid highway construction project, unless specific conditions are met as specified in the regulation. If the government, a university or other research center anticipates that a patent will come out of the research, it is important for researchers to document their work, follow disclosure requirements and do appropriate market research to identify the size and value of the market for the innovation.

Debra also briefly discussed IP issues that surfaced during the international scan on research program management. The countries visited seemed to lean more strongly toward patenting as the preferred alternative, which is not the current U.S. practice.

Group Discussion of IPR Issues

Crawford Jencks said that NCHRP asserts copyright over reports and software. For patentable products the process is between the originator and the federal government. NCHRP would like to be able to determine who would be the best owner of the patent for purposes of dissemination.

Additional discussion included these points:

- The market should be evaluated up front to decide whether to patent or not. If patenting would move the innovation out into the market, it should be encouraged.
- For universities the overriding issue is the ability to publish the results of the research in scholarly journals and other venues.
- A recent Caltrans Preliminary Investigation on Intellectual Property: National and International Perspectives addresses many of the issues being discussed.
http://www.dot.ca.gov/research/researchreports/preliminary_investigations/docs/intellectual_property_pi_6-24-09.pdf
- A Congressional Research Service report lists intellectual property produced by US DOT. Available at: http://patapsco.nist.gov/ts/220/external/Federal_Lab_Tech_Transfer_Report_Congress_2007.pdf
- What is the responsibility of FHWA to encourage use of patented products? What is the best way to accomplish this?

Barbara Harder suggested the group revisit these issues in the CoR business meeting to address how and whether the committee should move forward and potential partnerships with the TRB Committee on Emerging Technology Law.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

3:30 pm Conduct of Research Committee Meeting

Co-chair Barbara Harder called the meeting to order and asked for approval of the minutes from the last meeting, a Web conference held on March 13, 2009. Minutes were approved as written.

Review of Membership and Welcome to New Members

Barbara noted new members since the last meeting:

Rick Collins, Director, Research and Technology Implementation Office, TxDOT

Peter Kissinger, President, AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety

Kelly Leone, Deputy Associate Administrator, RITA

Melissa Paciulli, Program Manager, University of Massachusetts, Amherst

Steve Phillips, Director, Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories (FEHRL)

And welcomed committee friends in attendance:

Stephen Arhin, Ann Pahnke, Amanda Pietz, Phil Roke, Peggy Tadej, FHWA interns, Lauren Chew and Samir Nazir and especially Laurie McGinnis, formerly CoR committee chair and just recently rotated off the committee.

Meeting Materials (material posted to <http://transportationresearch.ning.com/forum/topics/midyear-meeting-materials>)

Agenda

March 13, 2009 Webinar meeting summary

Committee Communications Plan dated January 26, 2009

Committee Triennial Strategic Plan April 15, 2006 to April 15, 2009, submitted to TRB by Laurie McGinnis May 1, 2009

Current Action Plans for the five goal areas

Reports from Goal Teams

Goal 1 Coordination and Collaboration, Nancy Chinlund

Nancy noted that the work of this goal area is shared with the AASHTO RAC Task Group on Communication and Collaboration and reviewed the status of the three strategies adopted by the team:

Strategy 1. Identify and publicize topic areas, resources, and strategies of major research organizations using a central Web site. A major deliverable of this strategy is Funding Sources for Transportation Research: Competitive Programs now online on the TRB Web site at <http://www.trb.org/ResearchFunding/>, which includes five chapters and three appendixes on getting transportation research funded.

Strategy 2. Boldly market research coordination and collaboration. The Funding Sources Web page is being promoted through a TRB brochure. Appendix 5 of the Funding Sources Web page is the subject of an upcoming TRB Webinar on How to Write an Effective Research Statement.

Nancy noted that the team is planning to develop additional marketing materials including brochures on other tools developed by CoR. Perhaps the communications team could develop a template for these, including an overview of all the tools from a systems point of view so the committee has a clearer idea of where we're headed.

The team is planning to develop a process for improved linking to TRB and AASHTO committees in order to identify their unmet needs. The SharePoint Web site at <http://transportation.org> uses the main categories of the draft CoR Communications Plan to organize the information: Setting the Research Agenda, Collaborating in Research Activities, Carrying Out Research, and Delivering Results/Communicating Value.

Nancy commented that the current SharePoint site is a proof of concept. It now needs to be picked up by more than volunteers; some organization has to own it and put the resources into developing it.

Additional Web outreach efforts include the official CoR Web site at <http://www.mrutc.org/COR/>, a WetPaint Wiki at <http://trb-cor.wetpaint.com/>, a Ning site at <http://transportationresearch.ning.com> and a LinkedIn site at www.linkedin.com (Transportation Research Collaboration Group).

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

ACTION ITEM: Barbara asked Nancy to provide guidance to the committee through e-mail on how to enroll as a participant in the SharePoint Web site and how to make changes.

Strategy 3. Facilitate international coordination and collaboration. Work on this strategy is being closely coordinated with the Goal 5 team.

Additional discussion related to the Coordination and Collaboration goal included these points:

- The RAC Future Needs TG will post their information on the SharePoint site. The AASHTO RAC Web site also has a presence for each of the TGs.
- There's a question of whether the RAC Web site is strictly for members or for a broader audience. The SharePoint site is fabulous and ambitious. It could evolve into the site for CoR.
- There is a potential concern with multiple Web domains with similar names: SharePoint site – <http://transportationresearch.org>; US DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration Pilot Collaboration site – www.transportationresearch.gov
- Several members noted the importance of collaborative online platforms and TRB is putting resources into helping committees develop collaborative capabilities.
- Several NCHRP projects have studied this issue but TRB can't tell people how to coordinate and collaborate. In the end the various organizations involved in transportation research will have to decide if and how they can coordinate (federal, state, local levels).

Goal 2 Service to TRB Committees, Leni Oman (Attachment #5)

Strategy 1 Strengthen connection to other TRB committees. Leni Oman reported that the team is continuing to look at ways to establish liaisons on CoR with other TRB committees. There are a limited number of connections now such as with the environmental committees. A recent proposal to NCHRP for knowledge mapping was not chosen for funding. Leni is working with Larry Orcutt on cross-correlating members on TRB committees with their memberships on AASHTO committees and subcommittees. The team hopes to prepare talking points regarding CoR activities that CoR members could use when they attend other TRB committee meetings.

Strategy 2 Develop plans/projects to address other TRB community needs. Leni noted that a number of efforts were under way. Marci agreed, pointing to the presentation earlier in the day from a member of the TRB Committee on Emerging Technology Law, this joint meeting with the Technology Transfer Committee and jointly sponsored sessions with other committees at the TRB Annual Meeting.

Leni also provided a PowerPoint presentation on knowledge management by Maureen Hammer, Virginia DOT (Attachment #6) and the unfunded NCHRP Problem Statement Outline on Mapping a Transportation Research Network (Attachment #7).

Additional discussion included these points:

- Suggest an e-mail to CoR members asking them what other TRB committees they are involved with.
- Perhaps a CoR survey could be sent to other committee chairs regarding services/products needed from CoR?
- These informal liaisons with other TRB committees will be very helpful as CoR develops further products that will be useful to the committees.
- Focus on providing useful products for other committees.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara asked Peter and Chris to lead a survey group to reach out to other TRB committees.

Goal 3 Communication, Pat Casey

Pat distributed a Communications Team update (Attachment #8) and referred to the January 2009 draft of the committee Communications Plan distributed with the agenda and other meeting materials.

After briefly reviewing the draft plan, which lays out target audiences, themes/messages and communication modes, Pat asked committee members to provide him with any additional input or suggestions for changes by October 1.

The twice yearly newsletter, prepared by Communications Team Co-Chair Hau Hagadorn, will next be issued in July with feature stories on various aspects of "setting the research agenda" by Chris Hedges, Debra Elston and Marci Kenney.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

Articles will also summarize committee activities from the mid-year meeting, list the members and other volunteers who worked on the Funding Sources document, highlights from TRB and upcoming events.

A CoR-sponsored TRB Webinar on How to Write an Effective Research Statement will take place on Monday, July 13 from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Details and registration information are at <https://www1.gotomeeting.com/register/798836768>. Chris Hedges will present information from his paper on the subject, which appears on the Funding Sources site as Appendix A, followed by brief reflections from three successful NCHRP problem statement submitters and a Q&A period. The committee is indebted to Chris as well as Pat Casey for their work on this popular item.

Goal 4 Qualified, Diverse and Active Committee, Barbara Harder (for Michael Bonini)

Barbara noted the committee's progress toward adding members with communications expertise (strategy 1) and diversifying membership (strategy 2). She referred to the excellent briefing guide for new members (strategy 3) already developed in a hard copy version that was presented at the January meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara asked the Communications Team to take a look at moving the guide to the next step with final editing, inclusion of a current roster and conversion to an online version. She would also like to include the TRB two-page brochure introducing new members to the organization. She will send the guide in its current form to Pat Casey.

Goal 5 Implementation of International Scanning Tour Outcomes, Deb Elston

Deb noted that much activity is taking place toward the four strategies of this goal and that they would soon be formalized and incorporated in the action plan. The final report of the scan will soon be published by TRB and distributed to an expanded list of interested parties in the US and abroad. Workshops will be held at Turner Fairbank in the next three to six months. Associate membership in FEHRL is under consideration by FHWA. ...PIARC in 2011...Preliminary results from the scan tour have been presented five times to date and will be presented again at the RAC meeting in July as well as the Transportation Research Program Administration international scan team implementation meeting in Columbus, Ohio on July 1, 2009.

A National Academies policy study, proposed by the scan team, was approved by the AASHTO Standing Committee on Research in March, with final approval to be given by the TRB Executive Committee this summer. The study, funded at approximately \$1 million, is a combination of two proposals based on findings from the international scan:

- Examining International Research Institutes and Other Models of Collaboration to Link Knowledge Creation and Knowledge Application
- A Potential Process for the Development and Implementation of a National, Coordinated, Multi-Modal Transportation Research Framework

Other Committee Business

None.

Adjourn

The committee adjourned at 5:00 p.m. Members were invited to attend a reception sponsored by the Special Libraries Association, Transportation Division on the 10th floor of the Keck Center.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

Wednesday, June 17, 2009

8:00 am – 11:45 am Committee members and friends participated in a tour of the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center hosted by Joe Conway. Joe presented an overview of the Center and the group toured the following laboratories:

- Human Centered Systems Laboratory including the driving simulator
- Federal Outdoor Impact Laboratory
- Asphalt Pavement Laboratories
- Structures Laboratory

1:00 pm Continuation of CoR Committee Meeting

2010 TRB Annual Meeting Workshops, Jason Bittner

CoR has requested time for two workshops:

- Everything You Need to Know About Web 2.0: Using Communication and Collaboration to Improve Transportation Research. Co-sponsored with Technology Transfer ABG30 and possibly Education and Training ABG20 and Library and Information Science for Transportation ABG40. Requested time for the workshop is 9:00 a.m. to noon.
- Communicating the Value of Research: Guidance for Transportation Professionals. Co-sponsored with Technology Transfer ABG30 with a requested time of 1:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Discussion included how the Web 2.0 workshop related to a planned workshop by the Public Involvement Committee. Jason will contact the committee and make sure the sessions complement rather than duplicate each other. The point was also made that the Communicating the Value of Research workshop should include practical advice and case studies.

ACTION ITEM: Jason will lead a work group with volunteers Linda Preisen, David Kuehn and Leni Oman to develop the Web 2.0 workshop.

ACTION ITEM: Jason will lead a work group with volunteers Jennifer Fitch, Pat Casey and Kathleen Harrington-Hughes to develop the Communicating the Value of Research workshop.

2010 TRB Annual Meeting Sessions/Call for Papers, David Kuehn

David described the three topic areas for which the calls for papers went out:

- Breakthrough Research: How to Build Research Programs That Lead to Transformative Results
Building on the theme of the 2010 Annual Meeting, “Investing in Our Transportation Future – BOLD Ideas to Meet BIG Challenges,” what are examples of research practices that have resulted in dramatic results?
- How Social Networking Advances Research, Technology Transfer and Information Exchange, co-sponsored with Library and Information Science for Transportation ABG40
What are examples of using social networks in transportation research from the identification of research needs through the transfer and sharing of knowledge? What are benefits and barriers to the use of social networks?
- Measuring Research Program Performance
What are measures that assist in determining the value of research for an organization, industry or sector? What are meaningful methods for measuring transportation agency research performance? How are these measures changing agency processes and decision outcomes?

The committee will wait until the August 1 deadline for paper submissions before deciding whether to organize technical paper sessions or presentation sessions. October 1 is the deadline for the committee to submit session requests to TRB.

Committee members discussed the importance of these topic areas and others, how they related to past papers, the committee’s 7 Keys to a Robust Research Program, the broader focus of CoR as compared to RAC and the importance of attracting members from other TRB committees. Jason will look at papers submitted on the social networking topic as possible inputs to the Web 2.0 workshop.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

ACTION ITEMS:

- David Kuehn will coordinate the paper review process, with committee members being asked to participate as reviewers through TRB's Web-based system.
- David Kuehn will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Breakthrough Research.
- Nancy Chinlund and Linda Preisen will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Social Networking.
- Kelly Leone will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Measuring Research Program Performance.

Intellectual Property Discussion and Feedback, Barbara Harder

Members agreed that the Tuesday's presentations on intellectual property issues provided valuable perspectives and raised numerous issues that could be addressed by the committee. The question is what should be the committee's objective and how should we move toward accomplishing it?

Some possible ideas for action that were discussed included:

- Sponsor a symposium of some kind that would include dialogue on the issue, including the perspectives of academics.
- This event could be a separate stand-alone function and need not be at the annual meeting. Perhaps it could be a Webinar or tagged on to another meeting.
- Need to define audience, perhaps start with research managers, TRB state reps.
- Involved parties need to include not only members of CoR but also Technology Transfer, Emerging Technology Law, UTCs, international players.
- Perhaps a workshop with FHWA on international IP issues, a short course and manual for research managers, perhaps a technical session on IP at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting.

ACTION ITEM: Barbara will convene a work group to consider alternative courses of action related to intellectual property issues. Volunteer members of the work group are Nancy Chinlund, Amanda Wilson, David Kuehn, Stephen Arhin, Kelly Leone and Deb Elston agreed to be resources to the group.

Round Robin Items from Committee Members

Leni Oman. At the TRB State Representatives Meeting in Orlando on July 23, Mark Norman will moderate a session on TKNs. Frances Harrison, Spy Pond Partners, will present the results of NCHRP 20-75, Implementing Transportation Knowledge Networks.

Jason Bittner. Upcoming meetings.

- June 24, FHWA-sponsored Webinar on RSS.
- July 13, 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. EDT, CoR-sponsored TRB Webinar on How to Write an Effective Research Statement (will be recorded for later viewing).
- July 20-24, Orlando, Florida. AASHTO RAC Annual Meeting and TRB State Representatives Meeting. Details at <http://www.rac2009.com/>.
- Friday, September 18, 9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. CDT, CoR Webinar meeting.

Amanda Wilson. NTL is establishing Ghost Space as a collaborative workspace for research project committees.

Peter Kissinger. Committee members may be interested in reviewing information on the United States Road Assessment Program at www.usrap.us, sponsored by the AAA Foundation for Traffic Safety. This pilot project, in existence since 2004, is aimed at reducing deaths and serious injury on U.S. roads through a systematic assessment of risk.

Stephen Arhin, Howard University is studying alternative deployments of pedestrian countdown signals.

Kelly Leone. RITA's Collaboration Web site at www.transportationresearch.gov is aimed at developing a taxonomy for organizing and coordinating U.S. DOT R&D programs. U.S. DOT modal administrators are being encouraged to increase their collaboration.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

3:15 p.m. Plenary Session with TRB Technology Transfer Committee

Summary and Report-Out on Intellectual Property Rights

- The issues are sufficiently complex that the committee determined that a better understanding of the issues is needed.
- There is interest in forming a working group to further develop information on this topic with the intent of having some activity at the 2011 TRB Annual Meeting – a call for papers or a session most likely.

Transportation Knowledge Networks, Lisa Pogue

Lisa described the importance of knowledge networks for effective conduct of research and technology transfer. She referred to the TRB Special Report 284, Transportation Knowledge Networks: A Management Strategy for the 21st Century. This report called for the establishment of transportation knowledge networks in every region of the United States and at the federal level, and for the establishment of a national-level coordinating structure to manage and coordinate the activities of TKNs. The report also recommended location of this coordinating structure within the Research and Innovative Technology Administration. Lisa then introduced:

Amanda Wilson, Director of the National Transportation Library, US DOT Research and Innovative Technology Administration.

Amanda talked briefly about the growing momentum for establishing TKNs and introduced three transportation librarians who highlighted different aspects of networks for capturing and sharing knowledge related to transportation.

Maggie Sacco, CTC & Associates, Technical Services Librarian for the Transportation Library Connectivity Pooled Fund Study – TPF-5(105)

Maggie described the work of the pooled fund as a proof of concept for TKNs in that it provides a networking and special projects capability for state DOT librarians and other transportation librarians. Membership in the study currently includes 19 state departments of transportation, two university transportation centers and a metropolitan transportation authority. Many study members also belong to one of the three regional TKNs already established: Midwest, Western and Eastern. More details can be found on the pooled fund Web site at www.libraryconnectivity.org.

Matthew Barrett, Library Administrator, Dorothy Peyton Gray Transportation Library, Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

Matt discussed services provided through the library to employees, the public, governments and research institutions, such as: Metro Board archives; library archives including books, reports, photos; the Los Angeles Transportation Headlines blog at <http://losangelestransportation.blogspot.com/>; as well as pages on [Facebook](#), [Myspace](#), [Twitter](#), [YouTube](#), [Flickr](#), [Scribd](#), [Google Custom Search](#), and the [Online Archive of California](#). Members of his staff serve as embedded librarians on various county panels and workgroups to gather research, literature searches and short syntheses for use at public meetings.

Kendra Levine, Librarian, Harmer E. Davis Transportation Library, Institute of Transportation Studies, University of California, Berkeley

Kendra discussed the importance of emerging tools for professional networking on the Internet. Often referred to as Web 2.0 or social networking, these tools can be used by transportation practitioners to share technical information. Her Web site Mashtrans.org at www.mashtrans.org is a tutorial for using Web 2.0 tools in the transportation field. She gave examples of transportation agencies using blogs to announce new programs, Twitter to communicate current arrival and departure times for buses, and collaborative information sites such as Wikipedia to document information.

Q&A Session

Committee members were intrigued with the presentations and commented on the potential for TKNs to assist transportation research managers and investigators. Follow-up questions and answers addressed several issues:

- TKNs are not just a “librarian’s thing.” NCHRP 20-75 discusses not only libraries but also data centers, technology transfer centers, MPOs, and the various kinds of information and information providers needed in the transportation field.
- Librarians are key because they are skilled in the science of organizing information. There are several layers of the network that will need to be in place, but the foundation is library science.

Meeting Summary - TRB Committee on the Conduct of Research, June 16-17, 2009

- The five-year vision is emerging for a transportation information portal that will lead researchers, managers and practitioners to the information they need.
- While some organizations are beginning to evaluate the success of social networking tools there appears to be no formal research yet on effectiveness.

4:30 p.m. Committee Updates

Conduct of Research, Jason Bittner

The CoR Committee submitted its triennial strategic plan with updated goal areas: coordination/collaboration, service to TRB committees, communications, membership and implementing the international scan on research program management. The committee is planning to sponsor three workshops and three sessions at the 2010 TRB Annual Meeting.

Technology Transfer, Lisa Pogue

The TT Committee is working on its strategic plan – a new mission and vision – borrowed in part from the CoR Committee. They are initiating an outreach to other TRB committees and developing definitions of technology transfer, marketing, commercialization and deployment. The committee's focus is on interdisciplinary issues, such as intellectual property, career development and best practices. They will be responding to information developed from the international scan on research program management.

5:00 p.m. Joint Meeting Wrap-Up, Jason Bittner

Jason thanked members, friends and guest for attending the meeting and gave a special thanks to TRB staff, who hosted the meeting at the Keck Center, and to FHWA staff, who hosted the very informative tour of the Turner-Fairbank Highway Research Center. He then invited all to attend the National Transportation Knowledge Network Workshop on Thursday, June 18, at U.S. DOT Headquarters.

ACTION ITEMS from the Conduct of Research Committee meeting

- Barbara asked **Nancy Chinlund** to provide guidance to the committee through e-mail on how to enroll as a participant in the SharePoint Web site and how to make changes.
- Barbara asked **Peter Kissinger** and **Chris Hedges** to lead a survey group to reach out to other TRB committees.
- Barbara asked the Communications Team to take a look at moving the guide to the next step with final editing, inclusion of a current roster and conversion to an online version. She would also like to include the TRB two-page brochure introducing new members to the organization. She will send the guide in its current form to **Pat Casey** for follow-up.
- **Jason** will lead a work group with volunteers **Linda Preisen**, **David Kuehn** and **Leni Oman** to develop the Web 2.0 workshop.
- **Jason** will lead a work group with volunteers **Jennifer Fitch**, **Pat Casey** and **Kathleen Harrington-Hughes** to develop the Communicating the Value of Research workshop.
- **David Kuehn** will coordinate the paper review process, with committee members being asked to participate as reviewers through TRB's Web-based system.
- **David Kuehn** will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Breakthrough Research.
- **Nancy Chinlund** and **Linda Preisen** will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Social Networking.
- **Kelly Leone** will take the lead in organizing a paper or presentation session on Measuring Research Program Performance.

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- **Barbara** will convene a work group to consider alternative courses of action related to intellectual property issues. Volunteer members of the work group are **Nancy Chinlund, Amanda Wilson, David Kuehn** and **Stephen Arhin**. **Kelly Leone** and **Deb Elston** agreed to be resources to the group.